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Letter dated 14 April 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 23 February to 22 March 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 February-22 March), there were approximately 45,500 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops deployed in theatre, with no major deployment changes since the last report, although three countries deployed additional troops into Kosovo for employment in Multinational Brigade (MNB) (North) in the vicinity of Mitrovica.

Security

2. During the period, the overall level of violence in the province has declined, despite numerous acts of violence in the Mitrovica area. The most serious incidents occurred in the first half of the reporting period, and consisted of clashes between ethnic communities near the bridges over the River Ibar. With the establishment of a confidence area in the vicinity and an increase in the KFOR presence, levels of street violence have diminished and Mitrovica has become calmer. Tension nevertheless remains high, with the potential for a renewal of violence.

3. Outside Mitrovica, levels of violence have remained constant, and include arson attacks against Serb and Roma houses in the areas covered by MNB (South) and MNB (Central); grenade or mortar attacks perpetrated against shops, restaurants and stadia in MNB (East) and MNB (South); and mine explosions in MNB (East) and MNB (South) injuring two women and damaging a bus. Other acts of violence against civilians included beatings, assaults and shootings.

4. KFOR troops continue to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons in Mitrovica and elsewhere in the area of operations. On 15 March MNB (East) conducted a cordon-and-search operation in the area of Stublina, along the Kosovo-Presevo Valley boundary, and confiscated weapons, ordnance and equipment.

5. Over the reporting period, a number of acts of violence were committed against KFOR and the United Nations. On 29 February at Srbica in MNB (North) a soldier died after being shot twice in the chest. On 7 March during the bridge violence in Mitrovica, 16 KFOR soldiers were injured in a grenade attack, and on 15 March four KFOR soldiers were injured in stoning attacks while establishing part of the confidence area in the proximity of the bridges. In another incident on 29 February on the road between Lucane and Dobrosin in the Presevo Valley, a United Nations vehicle was shot at on the Serbian side of the boundary, and one of the two United Nations members suffered a gunshot wound in the leg. The attackers could not be identified.

6. KFOR troops continue to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders. No violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) have been reported, although some limited cross-border smuggling may be occurring on foot.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. With respect to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), the application during the reporting period by UNMIK, KFOR and the KPC leadership of the disciplinary code and compliance enforcement framework (see below) has resulted in the expulsion of four members of the Corps, the barring of one member of the provisional KPC from joining the Corps, and the ongoing investigation of five others.

8. In general, the army (VJ) and security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continue to comply with the terms of the military technical agreement and to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR. VJ units continue to conduct seasonal training in southern Serbia, near the ground safety zone, which is expected to continue during April.

Cooperation with international organizations

9. As at 22 March, the UNMIK police force numbered 2,571, including 209 border police. Companies of special (riot) police have begun to arrive. Of the 10 required by UNMIK, the first is in place, the second is scheduled to arrive at the end of March, and two additional companies in mid-April. Working alongside of UNMIK police, 347 locally recruited and trained Kosovo Police Service cadets are conducting on-the-street training. The next class of 225 police students started training on 20 March. Since the Service was formed, there have been 24 disciplinary investigations of cadets, three have been expelled for criminal activity, six reprimanded for policy violations, and one is under long-term suspension for repeated policy violations. It is estimated that by December 2000 there will be 2,751 trained individuals in the Kosovo Police Service, thereby allowing UNMIK to

achieve the desired 3,200 to 4,000 trained members of the Service by the summer of 2001.

10. The establishment of the Kosovo Protection Corps is progressing, and it is becoming capable of providing emergency services to UNMIK and of contributing to the reconstruction of the civilian infrastructure. UNMIK and KFOR will continue to ensure the adherence of the Corps to its civilian mandate. Initial recruitment to fill the permanent establishment of 4,510 was completed on 1 March, on the same day that the KPC disciplinary code became effective. The code, which was put into force by UNMIK and KFOR, constitutes the legal basis for enforcement of the rules for compliance and disciplinary action against offenders. The current final draft is subject to further review by UNMIK within two months for adaptation in line with the Kosovo Police Service disciplinary code. The code applies to all members of the Kosovo Protection Corps who have signed an oath of office, and provides a legal basis for the Corps Commander to take disciplinary action against non-compliant members. In addition, on 17 March, UNMIK and KFOR signed the compliance enforcement framework document, which assigns responsibility for investigating criminal actions to UNMIK, administrative discipline to KPC, and compliance violations to KFOR.

11. KFOR continues to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration. With regard to humanitarian project management and reporting, KFOR and UNMIK signed a joint policy paper on 1 March establishing a systematic framework to identify, coordinate and supervise KPC work. Projects will by coordinated by a central committee chaired by the UNMIK Department of Civil Security and Emergency Preparedness and including representatives of KFOR permanent headquarters and KPC headquarters. Final approval authority over KPC work projects will be the responsibility of regional administrations, and proposed projects which raise security concerns can be vetoed by KFOR multinational brigades.

12. The Kosovo Transitional Council continues to meet and has underlined its commitment to working towards a united Mitrovica in a united Kosovo, with all national communities able to stay and lead a normal and peaceful life.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

13. Between July 1999 and 21 March 2000 the refugee repatriation programme organized by the International Office of Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted 135,335 voluntary returns, primarily from third countries. In the reporting period, 3,303 voluntary returns were assisted by IOM and UNHCR, and another 4,700 assisted returns are expected during April.

14. With respect to the forthcoming repatriation of other refugees from third countries, IOM, UNHCR and KFOR together are meeting regularly to ensure their safe transition. Four locations in the area of Pristina are being investigated for use as reception centres.

15. With regard to internally displaced persons, there continue to be examples of cooperation between the Serb and Albanian communities, although this is not a general trend. KFOR, UNMIK, UNHCR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe continue to work closely together to improve conditions for the Serb minority in Orahovac, Velika Hoca and Djakovica.

16. In response to a recent influx of people in eastern Kosovo from the Presevo Valley in southern Serbia, a UNHCR task force is to prepare a contingency plan. The task force comprises units dealing with a protection programme, site planning, logistics and public information, as well as a winter emergency team.

Outlook

17. Tension is expected to remain high in Mitrovica in the short term. KFOR will continue to work in close coordination with UNMIK to promote and maintain security and stability in the province.